**महाराष्ट्र में एस.टी.डी. एक्सचेंज**

1256. **श्री गोविन्दराव आदिक :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) महाराष्ट्र में वर्ष 1995 के अन्त तक शुरू किये जाने वाले एस. टी.डी. एक्सचेंजों का जिलावार ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) राज्य के प्रत्येक जिले से एस.टी.डी. सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने के लिये किये गये अनुरोध का ब्यौरा जिला वार क्या है ; और

(ग) यह सुविधा कब तक उपलब्ध करा दी जायेगी और इस संबंध में प्रत्येक स्थान के लिये यह सुविधा उपलब्ध कराने की अनुमानित तारीख क्या है?

**संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) :** (क) से (ग) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और इसे सभा पटल पर रख दिया जायेगा ।

**Shortage of Dak materials in Almora District:**

1257. SHR RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Dak materials in the post offices in Almora District in U.P. particularly at Basot, Taya. Seem, Bhikiyasain, Ranikhet and Chaunalla;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to supply adequate Dak materials to meet the demand of these post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir. There was shortage of postal stationery, and especially envelopes from 26-3-94 to 8-6-94 and again from 3-8-94 to 12-8-94.

(b) Shortage was due to non receipt of consignment of stationery at Lucknow Stamp Depot, from Central Stamp Depot, India Security Press, Nashik.

(c) Supply of postal stationery has since been made to the Head Post Offices at Almora and Ranikhet in the first quarter of this year. Now, there is no shortage.

**Unparalled foreign participation in basic telcom services**

1258. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign participation in India's basic telecom sector, as announced by Government recently, has no parallel in the world;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no country in the world has more than 20 per cent foreign equity participation in the telecom sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the provision of Rs. 50 crores bank guarantee has been introduced to encourage Multinational Corporations (MNCs) participation in the country's telecom sector to the total exclusion of Indian companies, in spite of their competence and expertise;

(d) if so, the reasons for such extraordinary and discriminatory provisions in the basic telecom sector; and

(e) whether Government contemplate to review these in the interest of self-reliance and national security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir,